

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Bridgwater Profile

Published 2006



St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Bridgwater

Park Avenue
Bridgwater, Somerset, TA6 7EE
Telephone: 01278 422786

Children's Service Authority:	Somerset
Age range:	5-11
Number of pupils:	247
Head teacher:	Mrs. Margaret Jones
Chair of governors:	Mr. Kevin Chamberlain

What have been our successes this year?

The school achieved a positive outcome to an Ofsted Inspection while awaiting the appointment of a new headteacher.

The school continues to maintain above average SATs results.

The School Development Plan and Primary Leadership Programme have been used as vehicles to develop and improve leadership and management throughout the school.

The school has worked towards raising attainment through the introduction of pupil targets, become more focused in monitoring of pupil progress and through developing improved ICT skills, which has enabled all classes to begin to effectively use Interactive White Boards for teaching and learning.

While maintaining standards in literacy and numeracy, the school has had a specific focus on the Creative Arts, with specialist visitors in drama, art and music.

What are we trying to improve?

The focus of our attention will be looking to build upon and develop our skills in teaching and learning. The school is continuing to strive towards making pupils independent learners while teachers are exploring ways of continuing to improve the quality of teaching.

A target this year has been to improve the standards of writing in Years 1-6.

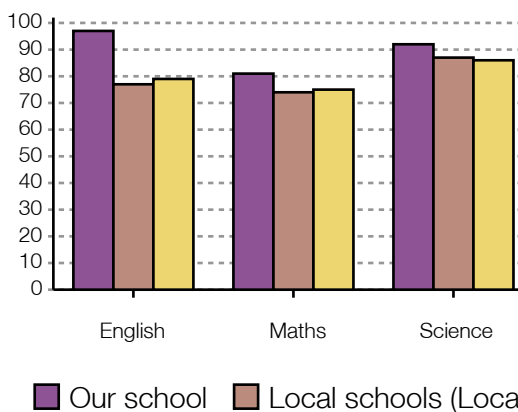
We are seeking to achieve Healthy School Status.

We also seek to improve our ability to communicate with 'stakeholders' by improving our sharing of information and targets with parents, building on our development of a 'schools' council' for pupils and developing wider links with our church and local community.

How much progress do pupils make between age 7 and 11?



How well do pupils achieve at age 11?



This chart shows the Key Stage 2 results for 2005. It indicates the percentage of pupils eligible for KS2 tests (usually 11 year olds) who achieved or exceeded the expected level (level 4)

How have our results changed over time?

In Key Stage 1 the national Performance and Assessment (PANDA) Report shows that the school has maintained an 'average points score' which is ahead of the national average in all core subjects (reading, writing and mathematics) over the past 5 years.

Pupils achieving Level 3 in the core subjects are similarly ahead of the national averages.

In Key Stage 2 the national Performance and Assessment (PANDA) Report shows that the school has maintained an 'average points score' which is ahead of the national average in all core subjects (English, mathematics and science) over the past 5 years, though science was 'in line' with national statistics in 2005.

At Level 5, English results are significantly ahead of the national averages, while mathematics and science are generally in line with national percentages.

How are we making sure we are meeting the learning needs of individual pupils?

Ofsted recognizes that 'pupils with learning difficulties make significant progress' in St. Joseph's School. Ofsted also records that the school caters well for its more able pupils.

A high focus has been placed on developing the role of the SENCO and Learning Support Assistants through continued training.

Good assessment and support programmes have led to increased funding and support for pupils with SEN issues.

SEN focus groups and intervention programmes are monitored closely.

The development of individual pupil targets for numeracy and literacy, together with an increased focus on analysis of pupils' work, seeks to ensure that all pupils are catered for effectively.

How do we make sure our pupils are healthy, safe and well-supported?

Preparations are under way to make a submission for the Healthy School Award.

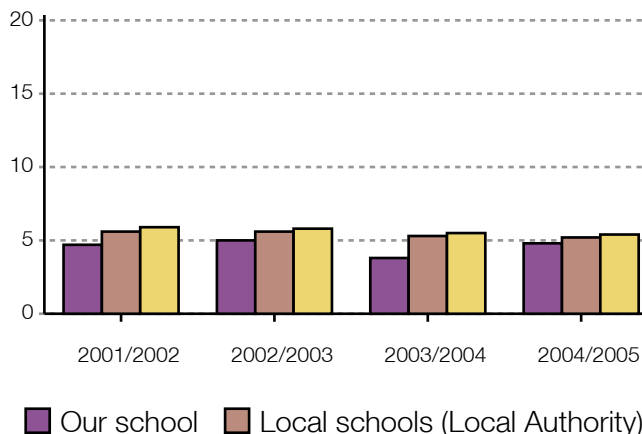
The positive school 'ethos' based on Gospel values, good behavioural management and engendering a feeling of 'belonging' all contribute to a healthy, safe and well-supported school community.

Ofsted identifies that 'the school's catholic ethos underpins the pupils' outstanding moral development and good spiritual and social development.'

A positive system of praise and encouragement, good intervention programmes and regular communication with parents / stakeholders support pupils' educational and social development.

The introduction of support programmes (circle time, social skills groups, coordination groups, time for counselling where necessary) help pupils to feel valued.

How do our absence rates compare with other schools?



This chart shows the percentage of half days missed through authorised and unauthorised absence by all pupils at the school. Information is given for the school, for schools within the local authority and for all schools.

What activities are available to pupils?

St. Joseph's School offers a variety of activities both as part of the curriculum and as extra-curricular activities. These include:

Visiting theatre groups / drama workshops

Visiting artists

Music tuition

Swimming

Activity week for Year 6

Regular curriculum related class visits to various locations

PE and activities supported by Somerset Activity and Sports Partnership

PE and Drama links with Secondary Schools

Extra Curricular French Club

Extra curricular music groups

Extra curricular football/ rugby/ athletics/ netball/ cricket / rounders

Sports week with visiting coaches in football/ golf/ cricket / dance / karate etc.

Chess club

Mathematics club

Booster Groups for Year 6

Prayer Group

How are we working with parents and the community?

Regular newsletters inform of everyday events and special occasions in the school calendar. A class termly newsletter guides parents as to the key areas of learning planned.

In addition to the planned parent interviews, parents are welcome at any time to discuss their children's progress or to seek advice.

Mass is held in school on Holy Days and each term the school takes responsibility for preparing the liturgy for a Sunday Mass.

There are links with both pre-school nurseries and secondary schools in preparation for pupil

transfers.

Family learning courses have been offered to parents while students and secondary school 'work experience' programmes are supported.

The school has strong links with the police and health services who provide personnel to lead PSHE sessions from time to time.

What have pupils told us about the school, and what have we done as a result?

There is a school council, which meets regularly. The school's council brings issues to our attention and can result in improvements.

Pupils have highlighted the inconvenience of the toilet arrangements resulting in reorganising locations. Girls requested mirrors and pupils asked for liquid soap. Improvements have also been made in the availability of water to pupils.

Pupils have worked with staff to consider our approach to healthy eating and are contributing to our desire to gain Healthy School Status.

What do our pupils do after leaving this school?

As a primary school we maintain close links with our local secondary schools.

Most pupils transfer to Haygrove Secondary or Chilton Trinity Secondary, though all local schools including private schools are recipients of occasional pupils from St. Joseph's.

What have we done in response to Ofsted?

The school was inspected in October 2005. All areas for development had been identified in the School Development Programme which has been the main vehicle for strategic planning and development.

This year we have begun a focus on improving standards in writing as part of the Primary Leadership Programme where we have been supported by a Local Authority Adviser.

The school has begun to extend its 'good assessment practice' (Ofsted) by introducing pupils to specific targets to help pupils develop 'ownership' of what they need to do to improve.

Performance Management of teaching is seeking to develop higher quality lessons throughout the school and will continue to be an area for development as the school will always strive to maintain improvements.

New and experienced Governors have arranged training to ensure that they continue to understand and improve upon their strategic role in ensuring the school's leadership and financial future.

More Information

If you would like more information about school policies, including our policies on special educational needs and disability, admissions, finance, school food and our complaints procedure, please contact us:

By telephone 01278 422786

Our website
